

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today spoke on the House floor in opposition to the Southeast Arizona Land Transfer Jobs.

In part she said:

"Today's bill isn't written for the American worker - it was written for foreign mining giants that hope to profit from our generosity. These firms are hoping that this Congress will be charitable enough to give away millions of tons of copper to foreign companies that have no responsibility to create American jobs."

The full text of the speech is below.

Video will be available shortly at <http://www.youtube.com/user/louiseslaughter>.

Full Text of Slaughter's floor speech

M. Speaker,

Today's bill continues an effort that was started by the Republican Majority earlier this year- an effort to give away valuable American resources to foreign companies. Today the Majority is proposing to take sacred land from Native American tribes and give it away to two foreign corporations- one of which is partly owned by the Chinese government. I stand here today in fierce opposition to this attempted fire-sale of American resources that is being conducted under the guise of job creation.

Today's bill isn't written for the American worker- it was written for foreign mining giants that hope to profit from our generosity. These firms are hoping that this Congress will be charitable

enough to give away millions of tons of copper to foreign companies that have no responsibility to create American jobs.

Copper is becoming a scarce resource around the globe. Yet the Majority is proposing to simply give our valuable asset away. Under today's bill, the United States would receive no royalties for any copper found in our soil.

Furthermore, today's bill is not the solution to our jobs crisis. The proposed legislation gives federally-protected land to companies that specialize in replacing miners with robots that do the same job. The Majority hopes that this will create jobs at some unnamed point in the future. In addition to this approach being naïve, the Majority could be doing more to create jobs than simply relying on hope.

The truth is that we could be standing here today debating actual job creation. We could be voting to put money directly into the hands of firefighters, police officers and teachers. We could be investing in new roads, rails and schools, and creating thousands of jobs for construction workers across our country.

Once again, the Republican Majority seems to believe that their job is to help foreign corporations grow their bottom line. It is not. Giving away our natural resources to foreign companies will do nothing but leave the American worker in the dust.

I strongly oppose today's proposed legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Rule and the underlying legislation. More than ever, we need to take tangible action to create jobs, not sell our national interests to the highest foreign bidder.

I yield back the balance of my time.